United Nations A/C.1/54/L.25

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
22 October 1999
English
Original: French

Fifty-fourth session
First Committee
Agenda item 76 (d)
General and complete disarmament: assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Japan, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo: draft resolution

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/77 B of 4 December 1998,

Considering that the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms constitute an impediment to development, a threat to populations and to national and regional security and are a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms in the States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion,

Welcoming the conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions sent to the affected countries of the subregion by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection,

Welcoming the designation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs as the coordination centre for all United Nations activities concerning small arms,

Thanking the Secretary-General for his report of 13 April 1998 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[1] and basing itself on the statement on small arms made by the President of the Security Council on 24 September 1999,[2]

[1] A/52/871-S/1998/318, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

[2] S/PRST/1999/28.

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Welcoming the recommendations made at the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers, Bamako, Yamoussoukro and Niamey to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

Welcoming also the initiative taken by the Economic Community of West African States concerning the declaration of a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

Recalling the Algiers Declaration adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, and bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms,

Bearing also in mind the reports of the Panel of Intergovernmental Experts on Small Arms,

Emphasizing the need to advance efforts towards wider cooperation and better coordination in the struggle against the accumulation, proliferation and widespread use of small arms through the Oslo Common Understanding and the Brussels Call for Action,[3]

1. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G and of the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, to curb the illicit circulation of small arms and to collect such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

2. *Encourages* the setting up in the countries of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion of national commissions against the proliferation of small arms, and invites the international community to support as far as possible the smooth functioning of the national commissions where they have been set up;

3. *Welcomes* the Declaration of a Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States at Abuja on 30 October 1998, and urges the international community to give its support to the implementation of the moratorium;

4. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States, held at Bamako on 24 and 25 March 1999, on the modalities for the implementation of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development, and welcomes the adoption by the meeting of a Plan of Action;

5. *Expresses* its full support for the appeal launched by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session for a coordinated African approach, under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity, to the problems posed by the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms, bearing in mind the experiences and activities of the various regions in this regard;[4]

6. *Expresses also* its full support for the convening of the international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects no later than 2001, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/77 E;

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[3] A/53/681, annex.

[4] See A/54/424, annex II.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to examine the issue and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them".